

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 26, 31, and 32 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 6, 12, 16, and 31 being independent. Claims 27 through 30 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 have been amended. Claims 31 and 32 have been added.

Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 9, and 12 through 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,157,431 (Mabuchi, et al.). Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Mabuchi, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,274,414 (Taniguchi, et al.). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Mabuchi, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,191,373 (Nakano). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 6 recite, inter alia, a setting circuit for detecting communication through the serial interface of a signal from the camera unit or the external device at power on of a power supply of the lens unit and for automatically setting the second mode when the communication is absent, such that, in a case that the camera unit does not include a serial interface, resulting in the communication being absent, the setting circuit automatically sets the second mode.

Claims 12 and 16 recite, inter alia, a setting circuit for automatically setting the second mode at power on of a power supply of the lens unit and for thereafter detecting serial communication through the serial interface of a signal from the camera unit or the external device, the setting circuit maintaining the second mode when the communication is absent, such

that, in a case that the camera unit does not include a serial interface, resulting in the communication being absent, the setting circuit maintains the second mode.

Claim 31 recites, inter alia, a setting circuit for detecting communication through the serial interface of a signal from the camera unit at power on of a power supply of said lens unit and for automatically setting the second mode when the communication is absent, such that, in a case that the camera unit does not include a serial interface, resulting in the communication being absent, the setting circuit automatically sets the second mode.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Mabuchi, et al., Taniguchi, et al., and Nakano, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 6, 12, 16, and 31. In this regard, the Official Action states:

[I]f the lens is capable of operating while mounted on a camera body of any kind, and given the fact that not all cameras in existence will provide acceptable communication signals to the lens unit, logic dictates that the lens will be capable of operating while mounted on a camera body that does not provide acceptable communication signals to the lens unit.

This statement is respectfully traversed. Applicant has carefully reviewed Mabuchi, et al. in this regard, and respectfully notes that communication between the lens unit and the camera body is a prerequisite. At column 6, line 65 through column 7, line 2, Mabuchi, et al. states that “data which is to be serially transmitted from the camera body to the lens unit has a specific bit $b\phi$ thereof, for example, arranged to indicate whether the camera body has the AF process (computing) function or not according to the on-state or off-state of a switch” As specified in column 7, lines 2-17, the bit $b\phi = 0$ is a communication signal sent from the camera body to the lens unit based upon a determination in the camera body that the camera body does not have

an AF process function, i.e., irrespective of whether the bit $b\phi$ is 0 or 1, communication is present. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 37,838

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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